

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action dated March 8, 2006, Claim 1 is being currently amended. Claims 2, 3 and 6-19 are represented. Claims 4 and 5 are withdrawn based on the first Official Action, and new Claim 20 is a Markush claim which is similar to previously presented Claims 11 and 12.

In the Official Action of March 8, 2006, it is alleged that the Application contains claims directed to the following potentially distinct Species:

Group A - Species A1 drawn to a method of binding an edge of material without stitching; or

Group A - Species A2 drawn to a method of binding an edge of material with stitching.

A further Restriction Requirement is identified as "Group B" and is as follows:

Group B - Species B1 wherein the welt material is substantially circular in cross-section; or

Group B - Species B2 wherein the welt material is substantially D-shaped in cross-section.

In the Official Action it was acknowledged that Claims 6-10, 13-15 and 17-19 were generic and it was emphasized that an election must be made by Applicants even though they may object to same. Applicants elect within the Group A claims, Species 2, directed (in Claim 16) to the method of binding an edge of material with stitching, and within the Group B claims, Species B1 (Claim 11), wherein the welt material is substantially circular in cross-section. This also includes the added new Claim 20, a Markush claim which is directed to a welt material which consists of a welt material that is substantially circular in cross-section or a welt material which is substantially D-shaped in cross-section or a combination thereof.

Concerning the election between Species A1 and Species A2, it will be noted that Claim 1 has been amended to add an amendment to the preamble that the method of binding an edge of material is without stitching the binding to the material. This clarifies that the scope of the invention in method Claims 1-3 is limited to methods wherein the lack of stitching is between the binding and the edge of the material to which the binding is connected. In other words, Claim 1 is not directed to a concept where necessarily there is no stitching anywhere. An important aspect of Applicants' invention is that the binding may be a covering which encloses the welt material and is bound thereto separately. Then later that binding is connected to the edge of a carpet or the like at the site where carpet is being laid or to provide smaller separate carpets concurrently at the site such as, for example, by using leftover carpet pieces from wall-to-wall carpeting for a landing, closets or the like as set forth in the invention as described and claimed in the instant Application.

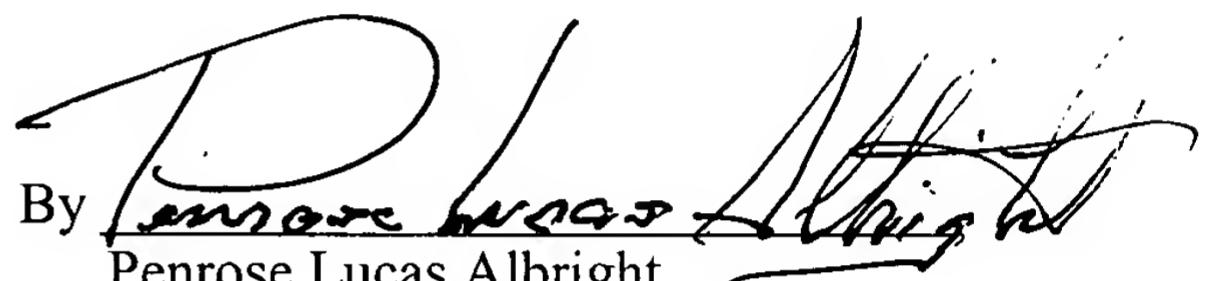
Independent Claim 1 may, in a sense, be considered broader than independent Claim 6 in that in Claim 1 "material" may refer to a carpet or other material to which a separate binding is applied, whereas in Claim 6 the "binding material" is part of the binding and not the carpet, as such.

Claims 1-3 and 6-20 read on Species A-2. Claims 1-3, 6-11 and 13-20 read on Species B-1.

It is submitted that with Claim 1 as amended, the Restriction Requirement A is moot and with Markush Claim 20 added, such Claim 20 constitutes a linking claim between Claims 11 and 12 whereby the Restriction Requirement B is no longer applicable, and the Restriction Requirement of March 8, 2006 should therefore be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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